

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 EUR-12

NEA-10 ISO-00 IOE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 NSC-05

SMI-01 OES-03 H-02 OIC-02 /068 W

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P R 041342Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3815

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 25739

NESCO

AMEMBASSY ROME FOR AMBASSADOR LODGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UNESCO, AORG

SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH PROF. LEMAIRE RE JERUSALEM

1. BELGIAN PROFESSOR LEMAIRE IS ATTENDING CONFERENCE AT UNESCO AND ENGAGED PERMREP IN CONVERSATION CONCERNING JERUSALEM. LEMAIRE IS VISIBLY DISAPPOINTED AT ATTITUDE GOI IN CHANGING ITS DIRECTIONS RE HIS VISIT. LEMAIRE SAID THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN UNESCO SECRETARIAT AND GOI WERE BASED ON LANGUAGE USED IN PREVIOUS EXCHANGES BETWEEN THEN DG MAHEU AND GOI AND TO WHICH GOI NEVER OBJECTED. ON PRESENT OCCASION GOI DID NOT AGREE WITH LANGUAGE AND, AS LEMAIRE BELIEVES, USED THIS AS A PRETEXT TO BLOCK HIS VISIT. LEMAIRE SAID HE HAD BEEN ENCOURAGED THREE MONTHS AGO CONCERNING GOI ATTITUDE TOWARDS JERUSALEM ISSUE, BUT NOW IS DISCOURAGED. HE SAID HIS MAIN CONTACT HAD BEEN MADAME LAMBERT WHO HAD INTERCEDED WITH GOI FOREIGN MINISTRY. MADAME LAMBERT IS NO
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LONGER WITH MINISTRY AND LEMAIRE SAID BAR YAACOV IS

MAKING THE DECISIONS AND IS A HARD LINER.

2. AS PREVIOUSLY REPORTED, LEMAIRE IS NOT INTERESTED IN RETURNING TO JERUSALEM SIMPLY TO LOOK AT THE DIGGINGS. HE WANTS TO MEET WITH HIGH-LEVEL GOI OFFICIALS ON THE WHOLE SUBJECT OF THE EXCAVATIONS AND PARTICULARLY TO MEET FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON. LEMAIRE IS CONVINCED THAT THE TIME IS RIPE FOR GOI TO MAKE A GESTURE ON JERUSALEM. HE SAID THAT WORK COULD EASILY BE STOPPED ON THE MAZAR EXCAVATIONS. AS TO THOSE AT AVIGHAD, HE SAID SINCE CONSTRUCTION HAS STARTED, THERE IS A BETTER CASE TO CONTINUE TO COMPLETION.

3. LEMAIRE DOES NOT WANT TO WRITE ANOTHER REPORT ON THE TECHNICAL ASPECTS OF THE EXCAVATIONS AS HE SAID IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR SUCH A REPORT TO BE USED AGAINST GOI AND THUS MAY MAKE THINGS WORSE. HOWEVER, A REPORT GIVING AN INDICATION OF SOME GESTURE, SUCH AS STOPPING OF THE MAZAR EXCAVATIONS, WOULD BE HELPFUL AND COULD BE PRESENTED TO THE EXBD AT ITS SPRING SESSION.

4. LEMAIRE SAID HE IS LEAVING FOR GREECE OVER THE WEEK-END TO WORK ON PROJECTS, BUT WOULD BE READY AND WILLING TO GO TO JERUSALEM ANY TIME ON SHORT NOTICE. LEMAIRE FEELS STRONGLY THAT GOI IS MISSING THE BOAT IN NOT MODERATING ITS STAND ON THE EXCAVATIONS AND HE URGED THAT THE US PUT PRESSURE ON GOI TO PERMIT HIS VISIT ALONG THE LINES DESCRIBED AND URGE GOI TO MAKE A GESTURE BY STOPPING THE MAZAR WORKS.
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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-02 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3816
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 25739

NESCO

5. COMMENT: THE FRANKNESS OF LEMAIRE'S REMARKS WERE SOMEWHAT SURPRISING SINCE HE HAS ALWAYS, IN THE PAST, BEEN QUITE RESERVED. IT MIGHT BE THAT HE HAS TAKEN A LIKING TO PLAYING THE ROLE OF DIPLOMAT, BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT AS TO HIS SINCERITY IN WANTING TO INITIATE CONSTRUCTIVE MOVEMENT. HE SEEMED TO BLAME THE CURRENT IMPASSE ON THE DEPARTURE OF MADAME LAMBERT FROM THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND IS CONVINCED THAT BAR YAACOV IS THE PRESENT BLOCK. THIS MAY BE AN OVERSIMPLIFICATION, BUT THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT AN OPPORTUNITY EXISTS TO USE THIS MODERATE AND RESPECTED ARCHAEOLOGIST IN A CONSTRUCTIVE WAY. ALTHOUGH HIS REPORT WOULD NOT LIKELY RESULT IN A RECOMMENDATION FOR REPEAL OF THE SANCTIONS, IT COULD SERVE AS THE BASIS FOR ATTEMPTS AT MODERATION BY THE SPRING EXBD. AND LATER BY THE GENERAL CONFERENCE. BUT, GIVEN THE DEGREE OF EMOTIONALISM ON BOTH SIDES, IT WILL IN ANY CASE BE EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO HAVE POSITIVE MOVEMENT. IT MAY BE THAT EFFORTS BY THE VATICAN, RECENTLY REPORTED, CAN PLAY A CONSTRUCTIVE

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ROLE IN MODERATING THE ACTIVITIES OF GOI.
RUSH

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